

Message Text

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12

ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-20 IO-14 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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R 280105Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1279

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7301

ORM FOR KELLOGG

EA FOR ARMSTRONG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF FERF

SUBJ: CHANGE IN FERF ADMINISTRATION

1. I REGRET THIS LAST MINUTE BACK TRACKING ON THE CONTEM-
PLATED CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REFUGEE
PROGRAM IN HONG KONG AND MACAU FROM THE CONGEN TO USMISSION
GENEVA, BUT I HAVE HAD LITTLE CHANCE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE
IMPLICATIONS OF THIS CHANGE SINCE MY ARRIVAL THREE MONTHS
AGO. SINCE A CLEAR DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO CONTINUE THE
PROGRAM AT APPROXIMATELY ITS CURRENT LEVEL OF EXPENDITURES
FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, I NOW THINK AFTER ARECENT HARD
LOOK THAT THE PROGRAM SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ADMINISTERED
FROM HONG KONG. MY REASON IS THAT ALTHOUGH THE PROGRAM IS
NOT VERY HIGH PRIORITY IN WORLD TERMS AND NOT REALLY VITAL
HERE, THE PROJECTS WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN HAVE ALL BEEN GOOD
ONES AND I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE THIS RECORD OF
ACHIEVEMENT; ADMINISTERING PROGRAM FROM GENEVA WOULD,
IN MY OPINION, HEAD US INTO A BUREAUCRATIC MAZE.

2. THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES IN THE APPROACH
TO THE REFUGEE PROGRAM IN HONG KONG AS OPPOSED TO
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THE APPROACH TAKEN BY THE US REFUGEE PROGRAM IN GENEVA.

LOCAL DIFFERENCES AND THE VARYING NEEDS OF US POLICY JUSTIFY THESE DIFFERING APPROACHES AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH DIFFERENCES WILL BE ADEQUATELY REFLECTED THROUGH THE CONTEMPLATED NEW ARRANGEMENT OF HAVING HONG KONG VOLAGS SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA FOR CONSIDERATION ALONG WITH PROPOSALS FROM VARIOUS OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, US MISSION GENEVA WILL ALSO REQUIRE CONTINUING ADVICE FROM CONGEN HONG KONG CONCERNING THE SUITABILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF PROPOSALS MADE FROM HERE. LOCAL VOLAGS WILL WISH TO CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE LOCALLY IN CASE OF QUESTIONS OF INTERPRETATION OF CONTRACT TERMS, GUIDANCE ON USG INTEREST IN SPECIFIC PROJECTS, ETC. WITH THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS IN THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT, I WOULD ALSO WISH TO BE FULLY INFORMED ON SUCH MATTERS AT ALL TIMES. THESE CONSIDERATIONS ALL INDICATE THE NECESSITY FOR A MEMBER OF MY STAFF TO BE WELL INFORMED ON A CONTINUING BASIS CONCERNING THE REFUGEE PROGRAM HERE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A DETERMINATION IS MADE THAT THE REFUGEE PROGRAM IN HONG KONG AND MACAU HAS COMPLETED ITS TASK AND THERE IS NO FURTHER USG INTEREST IN RETAINING THE PROGRAM.

3. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD ENTAIL A FULL-TIME FSO RESPONSIBILITY BUT THERE ARE OTHER PRESSING MATTERS, PARTICULARLY OUR NARCOTICS PROGRAM, WHICH COULD ALSO BE COVERED BY AN FSO WHO WOULD BE ASSIGNED PART-TIME REFUGEE RESPONSIBILITIES. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF A POSITION, PARTIALLY FUNDED BY ORM AND PERHAPS PARTIALLY FUNDED BY S/NM WHICH COULD MEET BOTH OF THESE REQUIREMENTS.

4. I UNDERSTAND THAT A SIMILAR PROPOSAL BUT BASED PRIMARILY ON THE NARCOTICS REQUIREMENT WAS ADVANCED LAST FEBRUARY AND OBTAINED WIDE ENDORSEMENT, BUT WAS FINALLY REJECTED MORE BY OVERSIGHT THAN BY A CONSCIOUS POLICY DECISION. I URGE THAT THIS PROPOSAL BE RESURRECTED AND ACTED UPON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. ELABORATION OF MY THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER WILL BE CONVEYED BY RICHARD HART TO US MISSION GENEVA DURING HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSULTATIONS THERE JULY 7 TO 10. IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD COMMENT ON THIS MESSAGE FOR HART'S CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA.
CROSS

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